

# Basic Photography Techniques

- You might have the best equipment in the world and could have the best technique, but if you don't see photographically, you won't get good photos.
- We have to train ourselves and cultivate a photographic eye. The best way to do it is to take lots of pictures. With patience. With a lot of thought behind each composition.
- Learn from your mistakes, technically and compositionally.
- Imitate good photography.

# What is Composition?



# Basic Composition...

- **With these simple tips on composition, your photos will take a different dimension.**

**Composition** is the plan, placement or arrangement of the elements of art in a work.

- In other words, how you arrange people, backgrounds, objects, etc... will determine the mood of the picture, the story and what emotion it evokes.

# Rule of Thirds...

- The Rule of Thirds is essential in order to tell a story with your picture. It is also the one rule most of us never follow because we tend to center the subject in our pictures.
- The rule is simple. Divide your photos into thirds, horizontally and vertically (see below). Then place your interest along the intersection of two lines, sometimes referred as the power point.

# Rule of Thirds cont.



- Here is a sample of a picture where the subject is exactly in the middle. This might be a great picture, but it does not tell a the whole story and also does not include the beautiful background as part of the picture.

# Rule of Thirds cont.



- In this other example the subject is now placed in one of the dots of the Rule of Third, allowing the background now to be part of the story and capturing an emotional moment.



You should always consider the path of moving subjects and, generally, leave space in front of them into which they can move.



# Framing...



- One of the easiest ways to take a creative photograph is to compose your subject with a frame around it. A photographic frame is an object that acts as a border or frame for your subject. The frame directs the viewer's attention to a particular subject or point of interest within the photograph. Frames also create perspective and show depth.



# Framing **cont.**

- **Creatively think of objects to use as a frame.** Some examples include branches, windows, tunnels, doorways, and archways. Anything that lets you look through one thing at another thing will make a good frame.
- **Use an interesting frame for your photograph.** If possible use a symbolic object for framing your subject, something that has a meaning in relation to the subject

# Framing cont.



- **Keep the camera's focusing and lighting sensors on the main subject.** If possible, use a foreground frame that is a darker object than the background. Expose for the subject in the background and let the frame darken.
- **Emphasize your subject.** All framing directs the viewer's attention to the subject, but you do not need to always go tightly into the frame. You can leave the subject framed but still leave other objects around the edges of the photograph.

# Awards & Promotions



- Pick the best side to photograph as much of the subject's face as possible.
- In an ideal situation chose the left side to capture the subject's name tape.
- Capture the action (pinning award, rank, etc.) then get a photo of the subject standing proud, hand shake, etc..





# Show Action



- Photos should show action. Give viewers a reason to want to look at the photo.
- The action should be clear and easy to understand.
  1. Apache lands on deck.
  2. Convoy drives down road.

What's going on in this photo? Would a civilian know what's happening here? Why is this image important?>>>>>>>>>



# Finally...

- **The Most Important Rule in Photography:**

*Frame your image tightly, keep out the extraneous garbage.*

- What are you really photographing?
- Never let extraneous elements distract the viewer from what you want to portray.
- Photographs should be concise, and to the point.



# TIPS

- Get closer to the action/subject
- Use flash when indoors
- Read your camera's user manual
- Capture vertical images
- Always include basic info when sending photos (who, what, when, where, why/how) and your name and unit.